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(54) A method and apparatus for displaying references to a user's document browsing history within the context of a new document

(57) An electronic document reader supplements a new document with selectable links that reference portions of previously read documents that have content similar to a passage of the new document. The portions of the previously read documents may be previously identified and stored in a memory to expedite processing. The portions of previously read documents are identified by annotations or explicitly by a user. The identified portions are indexed, clustered and are used as proxies for topics. This invention segments a new document into

passages and matches the passages to the stored topics based on the similarity of the content. The topics that exceed a content similarity threshold cause corresponding selectable links to be displayed in the display of the new document near the corresponding passage. The user of this invention can then choose to follow the selectable link to learn more about the topic of the corresponding segment. In this manner, this invention aids a reader in connecting material in the new document with material in previously read documents.

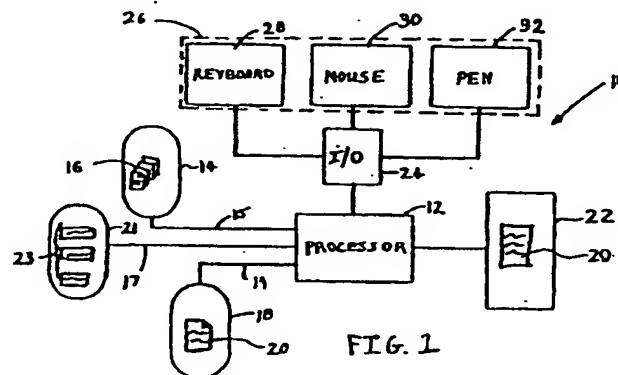


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 27 September 1999 | Examiner Abbing, R |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p> <p>Y: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons A: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

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Application Number

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| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

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